(a) whether Government have decided to enhance its equity capital in Indian Airlines by Rs. 325 crores and to review IA's long pending plan to modernise their fleet by the induction of new aircraft; and

(b) if so, what is the position of privatisation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Government has decided in principle to infuse Rs. 325 crore as equity in Indian Airlines in the form of margin money for acquisition of new aircraft.

(b) No bidder for Indian Airlines is left in the fray. Decision regarding restarting of the process or otherwise has not been taken.

Safety of Airports

† 155. SHRI BACHANILEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to make any special arrangement for the safety of airports;

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) Adequate security arrangements have been in place to ensure the safety of airports. These arrangements are reviewed and upgraded on an on-going basis, depending on the threat perception. The following additional measures *have, inter alia,* been taken to further improve the safety of airports:—

(i) Deployment of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) at all operational airports in a timebound manner.

(ii) Deployment of Quick Reaction Teams at major airports.

(iii) Strengthening of perimeter security.

(iv) Stricter access control.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.